

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SY-10

NEA-10 M-03 A-01 IO-12 EB-11 SCA-01 RSR-01 /131 W

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R 221955 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8392

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0731

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT PINS GY

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER' S ESTIMATE OF POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE

1. IN THE COURSE OF A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF TERRORISM WITH THE PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY, I ASKED FOR HIS ESTIMATE OF THE POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE IN GUYANA, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THAT ELECTIONS WERE IN THE OFFERING AND THAT CHEDDI JAGAN HAS STATED LAST YEAR THAT HIS PPP COULD NOT COME TO POWER THROUGH THE BALLOT BOX. THIS WOULD SUGGEST THAT OTHER AVENUES MIGHT BE SOUGHT.

2. BURNHAM SAID HE WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT HIS INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES COULD HANDLE ANY FORESEEABLE SITUATION , ESPECIALLY AS HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY LARGE- SCALE OUTBREAKS OR ORGANIZED GUERRILLA WARFARE. ACCORDING TO HIS OWN SOURCES, HE SAID, JAGAN HAS CONCLUDED THAT HIS PEOPLE " ARE NOT YET READY" TO MOUNT A REVOLUTIONARY EFFORT AND CONSEQUENTLY HAS RESTRAINED THE HOTTER HEADS AMONG HIS FOLLOWERS LEST THEIR BLOOD AND RESOURCES BE WASTED. IN FACT, HE WENT ON, HE KNOWS THAT JANET JATAN HAS WARNED THE PPP TO KEEP AN EYE ON INSANALLY ( MOHAMMED INSANALLY, A FIREBRAND PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA WHO HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE NEW AND NOW FRAGMENTING GUYAGA NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT OPPOSITION). ACCORDING TO THIS REASONING, JANET IS WORRRIED THAT INSANALLY MAY TRY TO SET OFF SOME INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE.

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THESE IN TURN WOULD GIVE " MR. BURNHAM," AS SHE NOW CALLS HIM, AN EXCUSE TO CRACK DOWN ON ALL THE OPPOSITION, INCLUDING THE PPP. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PPP WILL TRY TO KEEP THE LID ON.

3. IN BRIEF, WHILE BURNHAM DOES NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF SPORADIC ACTS OF VIOLENCE, HE BELIEVES CHEDDI JAGAN AND THE PPP WILL NOT " GO TO THE STREETS" AS A MATTER OF POLICY AND THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTAIN WHATEVER OUTBREAKS MIGHT OCCUR.

4. COMMENT: WE HOPE AND BELIEVE BURNHAM IS RIGHT. CERTAINLY HE SEEMS TO HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER THE POLICE AND GDF, AND WE ARE AWARE OF NO PLANS AT THIS STAGE FOR ORGANIZED, SYSTEMATIC VIOLENCE OR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY. WE ALSO HOPE HE WILL NOT BE PROVOKED INTO WIDESPREAD REPRESSION, BUT RECOGNIZE THE DANGER THAT HE COULD OVERRACT TO ISOLATED INCIDENTS. KING

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